


NHamp
35207
553
1991

Annual Reports
for the Town of
SHARON
NEW HAMPSHIRE

1991

Annual Reports
of the Town of
SHARON
New Hampshire

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1991



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Boston Library Consortium Member Libraries

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Town Officers	5
Town Warrant	7
Town Budget	11
Report of Selectmen	15
Report of Highway Agent	16
Report of Tax Collector	17
Report of Planning Board	19
Forest Management Plan	20
Town Forest Survey Results	23
Forest Fire Wardens	25
Conservation Commission	26

TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator

Hampton Howard	Term expires 1992
----------------	-------------------

Selectmen

John W. Derby	Term expires 1992
Barry Rhodes	Term expires 1993
Ken Callahan	Term expires 1994

Town Clerk

Nancy Kormendi	Term expires 1992
----------------	-------------------

Treasurer

Eleanor Butler	Term expires 1992
----------------	-------------------

Collector of Taxes

Leslie Jones	Term expires 1992
--------------	-------------------

Highway Agent

Walter B. Somero	Appointed
------------------	-----------

Trustee of Trust Funds

Donald Sullivan	Term expires 1992
-----------------	-------------------

Supervisors of the Checklist

Diane Callahan	Term expires 1992
Barbara Wilson	Term expires 1994
Heather Robinson	Term expires 1996

Board of Adjustment

Diane Callahan	Term expires 1992
Kevin Pipher	Term expires 1993
Marc Menard	Term expires 1994
Diane Krakow	Term expires 1995
Richard Dufresne	Term expires 1996

Planning Board

David Brown	Term expires 1992
Donald Sullivan	Term expires 1993
Lois Estabrook	Term expires 1994
Charles Robinson	Term expires 1995
Ken Callahan	Ex Officio
John Butler	Alternate

Conservation Commission

Gina Goff	Term expires 1992
Bruce Matthews	Term expires 1993
Karen DeBonis	Term expires 1994
Peter Paris	Term expires 1995
Henry Kanner	Term expires 1996
Rory Goff	Alternate
J. Milton Street	Alternate

Health Officer

Gerald DeBonis MD	Appointed
-------------------	-----------

Building Inspector

Timothy Groesbeck	Appointed
-------------------	-----------

School Board Representative

Hampton Howard	Term expires 1993
----------------	-------------------

Forest Fire Warden

Barton D. Goodeve	Appointed
-------------------	-----------

Deputy Warden

John W. Derby	Appointed
---------------	-----------

TOWN OF SHARON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN WARRANT

To the inhabitants of the Town of Sharon, New Hampshire, in the County of Hillsborough, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet in the Brick Schoolhouse in said Town on Tuesday, March 10, 1992 at eleven o'clock in the forenoon to ballot for Town Officers and other questions required by law to be decided by ballot. The polls will close at 7 PM. The business meeting will start at 7:30 PM on the same date.

Article 1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts which shall be paid to the Town Officers for their services, or take any action relative thereto:

COMPENSATION SCHEDULE

Selectmen	\$1,000 per year plus \$1,000 expenses
Town Clerk	1,000 per year
Collector of Taxes	1,500 per year
Treasurer	1,000 per year
Trustee of Trust Funds	50.00 per year
Moderator	40.00 per sess.
Supervisors of Checklist	5.00 per hour
Fire Warden	100 per year
Building Inspector	25.00 per permit used

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the purposes specified, or take any action relative thereto:

ACCOUNT	DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT
4130	Executive	\$7,500
4140	Election & Reg.	1,400
4150	Financial Admin.	6,300
4152	Revaluation of Prop.	700
4153	Legal Expense	1,500
4191	Planning & Zoning	5,000
4194	Gen. Govt. Building	100
4195	Cemetaries	200
4196	Insurance	3,510
4215	Ambulance	1,367
4220	Fire	8,423
4312	Highways	35,000
4316	Street Lighting	200
4324	Solid Waste Disposal	24,452
4619	Conservation Comm.	900
4723	Interest-Tax Antic.	500

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 as the Town's share of the operating expenses of the Peterborough Library, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,000 as its share of the development of a Remedial Action Closure Plan for remediation of hazardous waste with respect to the old burning dump and landfill at Route 202 North in Peterborough, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$518.00 for the Home Health Care and Community Services, Account #4415, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$305.00 for the Monadnock Family Services, Account #4415, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$450.00 to cover the partial cost of printing an update to the SLIPTOWN book, Account #4583, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$400.00 to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund, Account #4914, or take any action relative thereto.

Article 10. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to borrow in anticipation of taxes, to the legal amount allowable by law.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote (1) to establish a Town Forest Advisory Commission consisting of five members pursuant to the provisions of RSA 31:112; (2) to recommend to the Commission the adoption of the "Sharon Town Forest Management Plan" dated February 6, 1992; or (3) take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept on behalf of the town gifts, legacies and devises made to the town in trust for any public purpose, as permitted by RSA 31:19.

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by Town Meeting, money from the state, federal or other government unit or a private source which becomes available during the year, in accordance with RSA 31:95-b.

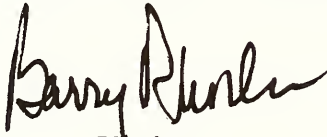
Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to convey any real estate acquired by the town by Tax Collector's deed. Such conveyance shall be by deed following a public auction, or the property may be sold by advertised sealed bids, or may be otherwise disposed of as justice may require, pursuant to RSA 80:80.

Article 15. To see if the Town will transact any other business which legally shall come before this meeting.

Given under our hands and seals at said Sharon this 20th day of February, 1992

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John W. Derby".

John W. Derby, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry Rhodes".

Barry Rhodes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Kenneth Callahan".

J. Kenneth Callahan

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION
MUNICIPAL SERVICES DIVISION



BUDGET OF THE TOWN

OF _____ SHARON _____ N.H.

Appropriations and Estimates of Revenue for the Ensuing Year January 1, 1991 to December 31, 1991 or for Fiscal Year

From _____ 19 ____ to _____ 19 ____

Date 2-20-92

John W. Dealy
Harry Rusk
J. Keane & C. Cohen

SELECTMEN (PLEASE SIGN IN INK)

R.S.A., Chap. 31, Sect. 95. Immediately upon the close of the fiscal year the budget committee in towns where such committees exist, otherwise the selectmen, shall prepare a budget on blanks prescribed by the Department of Revenue Administration. Such budget shall be posted with the town warrant and shall be printed in the town report at least one week before the date of the town meeting

THIS BUDGET SHALL BE POSTED WITH THE TOWN WARRANT

Acct. No.	PURPOSES OF APPROPRIATION (RSA 31:4)	W.A. No.	Appropriations Current Year (omit cents)	Actual Expenditures Current Year (omit cents)	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (omit cents)
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
4130	Executive		7,550	7,406	7,500
4140	Election, Registration, & Vital Statistics		1,470	1,443	1,400
4150	Financial Administration		6,380	6,301	6,300
4152	Revaluation of Property		600	871	700
4153	Legal Expense		2,000	1,000	1,500
4155	Employee Benefits				
4191	Planning and Zoning		8,000	6,362	5,000
4194	General Government Building		400	299	100
4195	Cemeteries		200		200
4196	Insurance		3,400	3,244	3,510
4197	Advertising and Regional Associations				
—					
—					
4199	Other General Government				
	PUBLIC SAFETY				
4210	Police				
4215	Ambulance		1,096	1,096	1,367
4220	Fire		7,814	7,814	8,423
—					
—					
—					
	HIGHWAYS AND STREETS				
4312	Highways and Streets		32,658	37,468	35,000
4313	Bridges				
4316	Street Lighting		200	195	200
—					
—					
	SANITATION				
4323	Solid Waste Collection				
4324	Solid Waste Disposal		18,506	18,506	24,452
—	Closure Plan				16,000
—					
—					
—					
	WATER DISTRIBUTION AND TREATMENT				
4332	Water Services				
4335	Water Treatment				
—					
—					
—					
	HEALTH				
4414	Pest Control		50	125	50
4415	Health Agencies and Hospitals		748	878	823
—					
—					
—					
—					
	WELFARE				
4442	Direct Assistance		100	613	100
4444	Intergovernmental Welfare Payments				
—					
—					
—					
	Sub-Totals (carry to top of page 3)		91,172	93,621	

Acct. No.	SOURCES OF REVENUE	W.A. No.	ESTIMATED REVENUE Current Year (omit cents)	ACTUAL REVENUE Current Year (omit cents)	ESTIMATED REVENUE Ensuing Fiscal Year (omit cents)
	TAXES				
3120	Land Use Change Taxes				
3180	Resicent Taxes				
3185	Yield Taxes		5,000	8,843	5,000
3189	Other Taxes				
3190	Interest & Penalties on Delinquent Taxes		4,000	7,133	6,000
—	Inventory Penalties				
	LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES				
3210	Business Licenses and Permits		200	441	200
3220	Motor Vehicle Permit Fees		20,000	22,534	20,000
3290	Other Licenses, Permits & Fees		200	303	200
	FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT				
3319	Other				
	FROM STATE				
3351	Shared Revenue		6,546	6,546	4,457
3353	Highway Block Grant		10,158	10,158	10,807
3354	Water Pollution Grants				
3356	State & Federal Forest Land Reimbursement		133		125
3357	Flood Control Reimbursement				
3359	Other Hurricane Reimb.				5,933
	FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT				
3379	Intergovernmental Revenues			3,933	
	CHARGES FOR SERVICES				
3401	Income from Departments				
3409	Other Charges				
	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES				
3501	Sale of Municipal Property				
3502	Interest on Investments		1,000	2,199	1,500
3509	Other		150	2,020	150
	INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS IN				
3914	Capital Reserve Fund				
—					
—					
3915	Enterprise Fund				
	Sewer —				
	Water —				
	Electric —				
3916	Trust and Agency Funds		7,200	3,700	
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
3934	Proc. from Long Term Notes & Bonds				
—	Fund Balance		23,596	23,596	22,016
	TOTAL REVENUES AND CREDITS		78,183	91,406	76,388

Total Appropriations	116,375
Less: Amount of Estimated Revenues, Exclusive of Taxes	76,388
Amount of Taxes to be Raised (Exclusive of School and County Taxes)	39,987

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF SHARON, N.H.
THIS BUDGET SHALL BE POSTED WITH THE TOWN WARRANT

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN

The Selectmen would like to express their appreciation to Highway Agent Walter Somero and to John Keurulainen for the speedy repair of the Swamp Road bridge which was damaged due to Hurricane Bob. Their common sense approach to the problem resulted in the bridge being closed for only two weeks.

We thought that the Bicentennial was very well planned and attended. The Committee did a fine job.

We would especially like to thank Alfred Sawyer of Silver Ranch in Jaffrey for making his 6 horse hitch available so the dignitaries could arrive in style.

Readers of the Budget and Warrant will notice new account headings. The State requested this change to achieve uniformity in reporting. Our auditor has put the 1991 expenditures in the new accounts for ease of reading and understanding.

We would like to remind the citizens and taxpayers of Sharon that we meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Schoolhouse.

Respectfully submitted,
John W. Derby
Barry Rhodes
J. Kenneth Callahan
Selectmen of Sharon

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY AGENT

The many recent ice storms and small snow storms have required considerable extra sanding so I am asking for an increase in the highway budget. The oiling part of the budget is up for an increase.

Culverts were replaced on Sliptown and Swamp Roads.

Hurricane Bob damaged the bridge on Swamp Road. It was rebuilt with the help of John Keurulainen. The 7 steel I beams were found to be in good condition and were recycled. The repairs were partially paid by Federal funds. The State will also be making a contribution.

Sealing was accomplished on Nashua and Greenlief Roads. Shoulder work was done on Nashua Road.

I will be replacing bridge rails on Spring Hill and Spring Mill Roads. Brush will be cut and shoulder work will be done before road sealing.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter B. Somero
Highway Agent

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
Summary of Tax Accounts
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 1991

DR.

	Levies of	
Uncollected Taxes - Beginning of Fiscal Year: (1)	1991	Prior
Property Taxes		37,113.14
Taxes Committed to Collector:		
Property Taxes	\$314,759.40	
Yield Taxes		8,843.62
Overpayments: 2		
a/c Property Taxes	included as interest	
a/c Yield Taxes		19.84
Interest Collected on Delinquent Taxes Includes Property & Yield Taxes	198.08	2,378.05
Costs & Penalties Collected on Property, Yield, Land Use Change		1255.23
Total Debits	\$314,957.48	\$49,609.88 \$364,567.36

CR.

	Levies of	
Remitted to Treasurer During Fiscal Year	1991	Prior
Property Taxes	\$267,637.42	37,112.89
Yield Taxes		8,683.98
Interest: Land Use Change		523.73
Penalties: Land Use Change		50.00
Interest on Taxes	198.08	2,319.78
Yield Tax Interest		58.27
Costs on Liens		681.50
Uncollected Taxes End of Fiscal Year		
Property Taxes	47,121.98	
Yield Taxes		179.48
Total Credits	\$314,957.48	\$49,609.63 \$364,567.11

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
Summary of Tax Sale/Tax Lien Accounts
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 1991

DR.

	Tax Sale/Lien on Account of Levies of		
	1990	1989	Prior
Balance of Unredeemed Taxes of Fiscal Year:		\$15,807.01	\$2,591.66
Taxes Sold/Executed to Town During Fiscal Year:	\$25,686.63		
Interest Collected After Sale Lien Execution	374.22	1,524.04	1,102.98
Redemption Costs:	200.33	75.50	25.00
Total Debits	\$26,261.18	\$17,406.55	\$3,719.64

CR.

**Remittance to Treasurer
During Fiscal Year:**

Redemptions	5,935.02	5,146.13	2,591.66
Interest and Cost after Sale	574.55	1,599.54	1,127.98
Unredeemed Taxes End of Year	19,751.61	10,660.88	
Total Credits	\$26,261.18	\$17,406.55	\$3,719.64

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The litigation concerning the proposed five lot subdivision by Cy Gregg of Lot 3-19 between Temple Road, Greenleaf Road and Route 123 was resolved in favor of Mr. Gregg and the subdivision was approved by the Planning Board. A two lot subdivision of the Upland Farms Lot 5-17 on McCoy Road was approved. An application has been received for a two lot subdivision of the Wood Lot 7-26 on Jarmany Hill Road. Proposals advanced to date by the applicants have failed to satisfy town septic system setback requirements.

The town's gravel regulations were updated to conform to recent changes in state laws on the subject. The Planning Board participated in discussions between the Conservation Commission and Tilcon, Inc. concerning the future of the bog and esker West of Swamp Road.

Improvements in mapping of the town include making copies of the USGS topographic map at a scale of 1000 ft/inch, transfer of the tax map lot boundaries to this base map and preparing acetate overlays of Soil Conservation Service soil type contours at the same scale. We have also made copies of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory map at the town scale. These maps make it easier to deal with development proposals received by the Board.

The Board is working with the Selectmen to revise building permit application procedures to ensure that town septic system location regulations are observed in new construction.

Recognizing that changes in our zoning ordinance are required to help preserve the character of our town in the face of inevitable growth and new state regulations, we have prepared a set of recommended amendments which will be offered to the town at a special town meeting later in the spring. The most important of these amendments is to restate the minimum lot size requirements in a more defensible way. In the upcoming year we will be working on such long range problems as the affordable housing mandate from the state and the possible application of conservation easements and other innovative land use controls.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald L. Sullivan
Chairman

GOAL #1 - ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO PERPETUATE THE MULTIPLE-USE GOALS AS DELINEATED IN THIS PLAN AND ENCOURAGE PERIODIC CITIZEN INPUT.

Objective 1A - Establish an Official Town Forest Advisory Commission consisting of five members to include: one member of the Board of Selectmen, one member of the Planning Board, one member of the Conservation Commission and two members to be elected at-large (who are not members of the above groups).

Objective 1B - This Commission will establish and update a town forest plan developed with clear evidence of citizen input.

Objective 1C - This Commission will advise the selectmen, who are required to consult them prior to decisions. These decisions regarding the town forest are to be made in keeping with and honoring this town forest plan.

GOAL #2 - ENHANCE AND PROTECT THE AESTHETICAL VALUE OF THE TOWN FOREST

Objective 2A - Inventory the components of the town forest as to their aesthetical value. (For example: large trees, rare species, and diversity of form and color, and the presence of water.)

Objective 2B - Designate as protected, certain categories of large or aesthetically valuable trees.

Objective 2C - Establish scenic zones, areas where slash is removed from trails and line-of-sight of trails.

GOAL #3 - PRESERVE THE DIVERSITY OF SPECIES OF FLORA AND FAUNA, AND ENHANCE OR PRESERVE THEIR HABITATS

Objective 3A - Identify species and their habitats.

Objective 3B - Review and consider expert opinions (from organizations such as the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory) prior to any and all harvesting.

Objective 3C - Any activity to preserve or enhance species is to be made carefully with an understanding of nature's balance, including consulting with experts where appropriate.

Objective 3D - Identify and preserve designated areas (including blocks of land) as natural biological zones where environmental disruption will be minimal.

GOAL #4 - PROTECT THE WATERSHED AND WETLANDS

Objective 4A - Designate protective buffer zones around all wetlands. These areas are to be entered only for public safety, footpath access, wildlife enhancement, or as necessary in achieving other goals in the plan.

Objective 4B - The crossings of any type of stream by logging equipment is to be kept to an absolute minimum.

Objective 4C - All activities in the town forest, to include timber harvesting, will comply with local, state and federal laws, including the securing of permits where necessary.

Objective 4D - No slash shall remain in any pond, stream or wetland.

Objective 4E - The Town Forest Advisory Commission shall observe the logging operations and report any violations of regulations and guidelines to appropriate officials.

GOAL #5 - ENHANCE ACCESS AND RECREATIONAL USE OF THE TOWN FOREST

Objective 5A - Move the McCoy Road entrance from private property to Town Forest Land.

Objective 5B - Establish and maintain a trail system for hiking, using existing old roads and trails whenever possible.

Objective 5C - Roads and trails used for harvesting must be left in the same, if not better condition than found.

GOAL #6 - MAKE AVAILABLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Objective 6A - Provide for guided group walks as available from educational institutions and organizations.

Objective 6B - Maps and descriptive materials about the town forest are to be made available.

GOAL #7 - PRESERVE SITES OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Objective 7A - Identify sites of historic significance: cellar holes, walls, fences, crossings, old roads and their names.

GOAL #8 - ALLOW WOOD PRODUCTS HARVESTING CONSISTENT WITH SOUND
SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES AND ALL OTHER GOALS

Objective 8A - The town forest is to be operated on a revenue-neutral basis. Funds generated are to be used for maintenance and improvement of the forest, including expansion through land purchases.

Objective 8B - Making money is seen to be a secondary consideration. Decisions about the intensity or location of cutting are to be made in harmony with all other goals. For instance, if there is a choice between harvesting trees because they are financially valuable, of leaving them for their aesthetical value, the decision should be made for preservation.

Objective 8C - Establish written guidelines, consistent with 8B (above), for harvesting timber.

Objective 8D - A Town Forest advisory Commission Member should be present at the time when trees are marked for cutting (or saving).

GOAL #9 - ADD LAND TO THE TOWN FOREST

Objective 9A - Land owners should be contacted when appropriate properties come on the market for possible donation, sale, or conservation easement.

Objective 9B - Use donor's name on parcels or trails.

TOWN FOREST SURVEY RESULTS

The Ad Hoc Town Forest Committee developed the survey instrument that was sent to 198 people or entities that are either registered to vote, own property, pay taxes or reside in Sharon. There were 98 responses returned, representing 150 respondents. 81 responses had comments.

It is important to remember that these results do not represent what the voters at Town Meeting might do, but the results do help us understand how everyone feels about the questions asked in the survey.

1. Have you ever been in the Sharon Town Forest? Yes 94 No 53
2. How many times have you been in any part of the Sharon Town Forest in 1991?
71 None
9 Once
9 Twice
4 Three
52 more than three times.
3. If there were trails in the Town Forest, how would you use them?
121 hiking
72 cross-country skiing
17 horse-back riding
4 snow-mobiling
1 other motorized recreational vehicles.
22 I wouldn't use the trails
4. Have you hiked the Wapack Trail in Sharon recently? Yes 68 No 80
5. Have you ever gone hunting in the Town Forest? Yes 27 No 120
If yes, with which of the following weapons?
21 shot gun
14 breech-loading rifle
8 muzzle-loading rifle
0 hand gun
5 bow and arrow
0 other _____
6. If you have gone hunting in Sharon, what game were you hunting?
16 doe
21 buck
0 moose
11 birds
7. Do you feel that hunting in the town forest interferes with other recreational uses? Yes 90 No 48

8. If you answered yes to #7, which of the following restrictions would you like to see?
- 62 no hunting
 - 19 hunting restrictions on certain weapons
 - 35 hunting restricted from certain areas
9. Would you like to purchase firewood from the Town Forest?
- 74 not interested
 - 12 yes, in log-length
 - 28 yes, in stove length
 - 36 yes, if cut, split and delivered.
10. Would you be willing to volunteer to work cutting and clearing to make head room to accommodate horse-back riding on trails in the Town Forest? Yes 32 No 110
11. Would you be willing to volunteer to work cutting and clearing brush and slash for a foot-path from Jarman Hill Road to McCoy Road? Yes 76 No 65
12. Should markers and/or monuments be set-up to designate historic sites in the Town Forest? Should some of these sites be restored and maintained? Yes 105 No 29
13. Part of the Town Forest controversy is that people differ about how to best manage the timber resources. Which statement most closely resembles how you feel..
- 19 Leave it natural, let nature take its course
 - 56 Make selective cuts of firewood only
 - 78 Selectively harvest timber for sale
14. Have you read the New England Forestry Foundation's Town Forest Management Plan? Yes 33 No 110
15. If you answered yes to #14, how do you feel about the plan?
- 24 I agree with it
 - 11 I disagree with it
16. The Town Forest is currently managed by the Selectmen. Which of the following best represents how you feel about this?
- 45 The Selectmen, as is current
 - 36 The Conservation Commission should be responsible
 - 36 There should be a Town Forest Advisory Board
 - 39 There should be an official Town Forest Commission
17. The money from the sale of wood from the Town Forest goes into the Town Forest Fund. Which of the following represents what should be done with the money?
- 78 Purchase more land, expanding the Town Forest
 - 80 Build a trail system
 - 11 Construct parking areas
 - 33 Restore historic sites



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS

172 Pembroke Road P.O. Box 856 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

John E. Sargent, Director

STEPHEN K. RICE
Commissioner

603-271-2214
FAX: 603-271-2629

December 18, 1991

TO: Forest Fire Wardens - For Town Annual Report

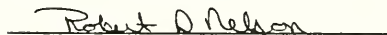
1991 was a very dry and busy year for the New Hampshire Forest Fire Service as well as local fire departments due to our increase in the number of fires. Our three major causes of fires in 1991 were non-permit, children and smoking materials. 450 wildland fires in New Hampshire burned approximately 150 acres for an average fire size of one-third acre.

Primarily, the local fire department is responsible for extinguishing these fires. Keeping the average fire size this small is a tribute to early detection by citizens, our fire tower lookout system and the quick response of our trained local fire departments.

In every municipality, there is a Forest Fire Warden and several Deputy Wardens that are responsible for directing suppression action on wildland fires, working with other fire department members under the direction of the N.H. Forest Fire Service to make sure that all fire department members are properly trained and equipped for suppressing wildland fires. Forest Fire Wardens and Deputy Wardens receive specialized training each year, presented by the N.H. Forest Fire Service, to keep their skill level and knowledge of forest fire laws up to date.

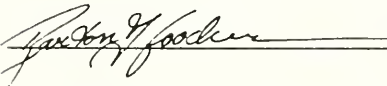
The local Warden and selected Deputy Wardens are also responsible for issuing burning permits for any open burning that is to be done in their community. In New Hampshire, any open burning, except when the ground is completely covered with snow, requires a written fire permit prior to lighting the fire. Before doing any open burning, it is recommended that you contact your local fire department to see if a permit is required and to save your community the cost of sending fire equipment on a false alarm. Any person violating the permit law (RSA 224:27) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Please help your local Warden and fire department by requesting a fire permit before kindling a fire, be understanding if they tell you it is not a safe day to burn and help keep New Hampshire green! Thank you for being fire safe.



Robert D. Nelson, Chief, Forest Protection

Your Local Forest Ranger



Municipal Forest Fire Warden

Forest Protection (603) 271-2217
Forest Management (603) 271-3456



Land Management (603) 271-3456
Information & Planning (603) 271-3457

TTY/TDD 1-800-992-3312 or 225-4033

SHARON CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Members: Karen DeBonis (Chair), Gina Goff, Henry Kanner
Bruce Matthews, Peter Paris, Rory Goff (Alternate)

1991 Accomplishments

- Earth Day '91** -- The Conservation Commission organized the second annual Town Clean-Up. Twenty people helped and our efforts were recognized on an Earth Day projects list that was distributed nationwide.
- Bog** -- We continue to make progress, slowly but surely, toward our goal of protecting the Sharon bog. In July, the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory completed a field survey of the site which confirmed our belief that the bog is "an exceptional ecological community...that is worthy of protection". Toward that end, the Conservation Commission has joined with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests and The Nature Conservancy. Two meetings were held with these organizations, a group of Sharon citizens, and Mr. Tim Perry, President of Arthur Whitcomb / Tilcon, Inc., the gravel company which owns the site.
- Gravel Regulations** -- The Conservation Commission assisted the Sharon Planning Board with revising the town's Gravel Excavation Ordinance.
- Town Forest** -- Members of the Commission served on the Ad Hoc Town Forest Committee.

1992 Plans

- Earth Day '92 -- This year's town Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th (Rain date: 4/25). Meet at the schoolhouse at 9 a.m. Please come, and bring your family!
- Monadnock Conservation Committee -- We are planning to host members of the Monadnock Conservation Committee, for their semi-annual meeting. Guest speaker: Senator Charlie Bass.
- Bog -- With input and involvement from the Forest Society and Nature Conservancy, we will continue to foster discussions between Arthur Whitcomb/Tilcon and the town. We are hopeful that the company may consider donating the bog and a buffer around it for permanent protection.
- Scholarship for Summer Camp -- We have decided to use part of our 1992 budget to partially sponsor a young person (in grades 8 to 11) from Sharon to attend a week-long Community Conservation Camp in June. This is an overnight, hands-on learning experience. Interested families should contact Karen DeBonis.
- Town Forest -- The Conservation Commission will continue to work with the Ad Hoc Forest Committee and the Selectmen to develop goals and objectives for this wonderful resource.
- Wetlands Inventory -- We are exploring the idea of an inventory of certain wetlands in town. The purpose of the inventory would be to collect basic information about wetlands (based on methods recommended by the state) which could be used to support future plans and decisions regarding wetlands in Sharon. If we decide to tackle this project we may ask for assistance from graduate students/interns and volunteers.

The Conservation Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the schoolhouse. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.



